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Virginia Air Board
c/o Terry Darton
Air Permit Manager
13901 Crown Court
Woodbridge, VA 22193

RECEIVED

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**DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY-NRO**

Dear Air Board:

I am writing to express the importance of the Potomac River Generating Station continuing to produce the current level of power. I am a retired Dental Assistant and resident of the Alexandria area for 35 years. I live outside of Alexandria in Fairfax County. This is a beautiful area to live in and I want it to stay that way.

Reducing the amount of power generated at Mirant will have no effect on the quality of air our citizens breathe. The only outcome of a reduction of power will be an inadequate supply of electricity. This issue is also of concern to the US Department of Energy. The Department of Energy ordered Mirant to continue operating at its current level and was not concerned about pollution control. This shows just how important the energy production at Mirant is.

The Air Board has spent millions of taxpayer's dollars trying to reduce the production of energy at Mirant, but has not been concerned about pollution control. Mirant has proposed to install a stack merge system that will allow the plant to produce the same level of energy and improve the quality of air in Alexandria at the same time. Mirant will take full financial responsibility for this; thus saving the citizens of Alexandria a substantial amount of money in legal fees.

If the Air Board forces Mirant to reduce the amount of electricity contributed to the grid, eventually the people of Virginia will feel the repercussions. The less energy put into the grid, the lesser amount there will be to pull out of the grid. The rolling blackouts that are prevalent on the West Coast will soon become common place here. By the time the Air Board sees this happen, a large number of employees would have already been laid off, and stepping up power production would not happen overnight. This should not be allowed to happen and the stack merge can prevent this.

Yours truly,

Katherine Duncan